

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

20. (currently amended): A method for sizing a paper with a sizing agent which comprises coating or impregnating a raw paper with a sizing agent ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of a water-soluble soybean polysaccharide and a cationic polymer.

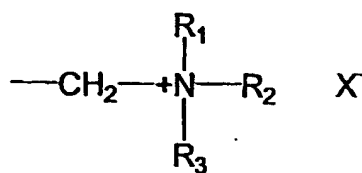
21. (canceled).

22. (previously presented): The method according to claim 20, wherein said cationic polymer is fixed to said water-soluble soybean polysaccharide.

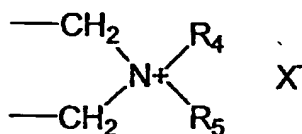
23. (previously presented): The method according to claim 20, wherein said cationic polymer is graft-polymerized to said water-soluble soybean polysaccharide.

24. (currently amended): The method according to claim 20, wherein said cationic polymer is an acrylic polymer, a vinyl polymer or an ~~acrylic polymer~~ allyl polymer, each having a quaternary amino group.

25. (previously presented): The method according to claim 24, wherein said cationic polymer is a hydrophilic, synthetic resin comprising a structure unit having a quaternary amino group represented by the following general formula:



or



wherein R₁-R₅ are groups selected from the group consisting of alkyl groups having 1-7 carbon atoms, aryl groups, benzyl groups and combinations thereof, which may be the same or different, and X⁻ is a counter ion.

26. (previously presented): The method according to claim 25, wherein said cationic polymer further comprises a structure unit derived from a hydrophilic acrylic, vinyl or allyl monomer, and/or a structure unit derived from a hydrophobic monomer.

27. (previously presented): The method according to claim 20, wherein said sizing agent further contains a surfactant.

28. (canceled).

29. (previously presented): The method according to claim 27, wherein said surfactant is a nonionic surfactant having a hydrophilic-lipophilic balance (HLB) of from 5-15.

30. (canceled).

31. (previously presented): The method according to claim 22, wherein a weight ratio of said cationic polymer to said water-soluble soybean polysaccharide is from 0-50.

32. (previously presented): The method according to claim 31, wherein the weight ratio of said cationic polymer to said water-soluble soybean polysaccharide is from 0.5-20.

33. (previously presented): The method according to claim 27, wherein a weight ratio of said surfactant to said water-soluble soybean polysaccharide is from 0.05-200.

34. (previously presented): The method according to claim 33, wherein the weight ratio of said surfactant to said water-soluble soybean polysaccharide is from 0.1-10.